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What is claimed is:

5     *Sub 1* 1. A method for serving remote procedure calls from an applet which executes within an applet viewer which in turn executes in a computer system, the method comprising:

receiving from the applet a request for a document according to a document retrieval protocol implemented on a computer network;

10     determining that the request specifies a function which is defined within a computer process executing independently of the applet and applet viewer and which includes one or more computer instructions, execution of which performs a task which is unrelated to retrieval of any document specified in the request; and

executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more computer instructions in response to receipt of the request.

15     2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the step of determining comprises:  
determining that the request includes a document specification which is in a portion of a name space reserved for function requests.

20     *Sub 2* 3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:  
returning result data produced by execution of the function to the applet.

25     4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the step of returning comprises:  
forming a document which includes the result data; and  
sending the document to the applet.

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the document retrieval protocol is HTTP.

Sub 23 6. A computer readable medium useful in association with a computer system which includes a processor and a memory, the computer readable medium including computer instructions which are configured to cause the computer to serve remote procedure calls from an applet, which executes within an applet viewer which in turn executes in the computer system, by performing the steps of:

receiving from the applet a request for a document according to a document retrieval protocol implemented on a computer network;

determining that the request specifies a function which is defined within a computer process executing independently of the applet and applet viewer and which includes one or more selected computer instructions, execution of which performs a task which is unrelated to retrieval of any document specified in the request; and

executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more selected computer instructions in response to receipt of the request.

7. The computer readable medium of Claim 6 wherein the step of determining comprises:

determining that the request includes a document specification which is in a portion of a name space reserved for function requests.

Sub 24 8. ~~The computer readable medium of Claim 6 where the computer instructions are further configured to cause the computer to serve remote procedure calls by further performing the step of:~~

~~returning result data produced by execution of the function to the applet.~~

9. The computer readable medium of Claim 8 wherein the step of returning comprises:

forming a document which includes the result data; and  
sending the document to the applet.

10. The computer readable medium of Claim 6 wherein the document retrieval protocol is HTTP.

5 *Sub*  
*Q5* 11. A computer system comprising:  
a processor;  
a memory operatively coupled to the processor; and  
a computer process which executes in the processor from the memory and which,  
when executed, serves remote procedure calls from an applet which executes within an  
applet viewer which in turn executes in the processor from the memory concurrently and  
10 independently from the computer process, wherein the computer process serves remote  
procedure calls by performing the steps of:  
receiving from the applet a request for a document according to a  
document retrieval protocol implemented on a computer network;  
determining that the request specifies a function which is defined within the  
15 computer process and which includes one or more computer instructions,  
execution of which performs a task which is unrelated to retrieval of any document  
specified in the request; and  
executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more  
computer instructions in response to receipt of the request.

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12. The computer system of Claim 11 wherein the step of determining comprises:  
determining that the request includes a document specification which is in a  
portion of a name space reserved for function requests.

25 *Sub*  
*Q6* 13. ~~The computer system of Claim 11 where the computer process serves remote  
procedure calls by further performing the step of:  
returning result data produced by execution of the function to the applet~~

14. The computer system of Claim 13 wherein the step of returning comprises:  
forming a document which includes the result data; and  
sending the document to the applet.

5 *Sub 7* 15. The computer system of Claim 11 wherein the document retrieval protocol is  
HTTP.

16. A method for serving remote procedure calls to an applet which executes within an  
applet viewer which in turn executes in a computer system, the method comprising:

10 sending to a computer process executing independently of the applet and applet  
viewer a request for a document according to a document retrieval protocol implemented  
on a computer network wherein the request includes data communicating to the computer  
process that the applet can receive at least one processing request;

15 receiving from the computer process as at least a portion of the document  
requested by the request, a processing request which specifies a function which in turn (i)  
is defined within the applet and (ii) includes one or more computer instructions; and

20 executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more computer  
instructions in response to receipt of the processing request.

25 17. A method for serving remote procedure calls to an applet which executes within an  
applet viewer which in turn executes in a computer system from a computer process executing  
independently of the applet and applet viewer, the method comprising:

receiving from the applet a request for a document according to a document  
retrieval protocol implemented on a computer network wherein the request includes data  
communicating to the computer process that the applet can receive at least one processing  
request;

sending to the applet as at least a portion of the document requested by the  
request, a processing request which specifies a function which in turn (i) is defined within

the applet and (ii) includes one or more computer instructions; and  
executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more computer  
instructions in response to receipt of the processing request.

5           18.    A computer readable medium useful in association with a computer system which  
includes a processor and a memory, the computer readable medium including computer  
instructions which are configured to cause the computer to serve remote procedure calls to an  
applet which executes within an applet viewer which in turn executes in the computer system, by  
performing the steps of:

10                sending to a computer process executing independently of the applet and applet  
viewer a request for a document according to a document retrieval protocol implemented  
on a computer network wherein the request includes data communicating to the computer  
process that the applet can receive at least one processing request;

15                receiving from the computer process as at least a portion of the document  
requested by the request, a processing request which specifies a function which in turn (i)  
is defined within the applet and (ii) includes one or more computer instructions; and  
executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more computer  
instructions in response to receipt of the processing request.

20           19.    A computer readable medium useful in association with a computer system which  
includes a processor and a memory, the computer readable medium including computer  
instructions which are configured to cause the computer to serve remote procedure calls to an  
applet which executes within an applet viewer which in turn executes in a computer system from a  
computer process executing independently of the applet and applet viewer, by performing the  
25           steps of:

                  receiving from the applet a request for a document according to a document  
retrieval protocol implemented on a computer network wherein the request includes data  
communicating to the computer process that the applet can receive at least one processing

request;

sending to the applet as at least a portion of the document requested by the request, a processing request which specifies a function which in turn (i) is defined within the applet and (ii) includes one or more computer instructions; and

executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more computer instructions in response to receipt of the processing request.

20. A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively coupled to the processor; and

an applet (i) which executes in an applet viewer which in turn executes in the processor from the memory and (ii) which, when executed, serves remote procedure calls to the applet by performing the steps of:

sending to a computer process executing independently of the applet and applet viewer a request for a document according to a document retrieval protocol implemented on a computer network wherein the request includes data communicating to the computer process that the applet can receive at least one processing request;

receiving from the computer process as at least a portion of the document requested by the request, a processing request which specifies a function which in turn (i) is defined within the applet and (ii) includes one or more computer instructions; and

executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more computer instructions in response to receipt of the processing request.

21. A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory operatively coupled to the processor; and

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executing the function to thereby cause execution of the one or more computer instructions in response to receipt of the processing request.

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